

FORM PTO-1390 OFFICE (REV 11-2000)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 360842007400
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 371			U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5) 09/787105 to be assigned
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/JP99/07237	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 22 December 1999	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED none	
TITLE OF INVENTION MULTILAYER FILM AND PROCESS FOR PRODUCING THE SAME			
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Kenji HATADA			
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:			
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 3. <input type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below. 4. <input type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (PCT Article 31). 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) a. <input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto. b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). a. <input type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. 8. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). 9. <input type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). 10. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)). Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included: 11. <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. 12. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. 13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment. 14. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment. 15. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification. 16. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter. 17. <input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825. 18. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 19. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 20. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: 1. Notification of receipt of record; 2. PCT Request; 3. return receipt postcard.			

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Marieta Luke
 Marieta Luke

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.55) to be assigned <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin-left: 100px;">09/787105</div>		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/JP99/07237		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER: 360842007400	
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21. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted: BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)): Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO \$1,000.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO \$860.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$710.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provision of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$690.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$100.00				CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY	
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CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE		
Total claims	22 - 20 =	2	x \$18.00	\$36.00	
Independent claims	3 - 3 =	0	x \$80.00	\$0.00	
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ \$270.00	\$0.00	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$896.00	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.				\$0.00	
SUBTOTAL =				\$896.00	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).				+	\$0.00
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$896.00	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property				+	\$40.00
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$936.00	
				Amount to be refunded:	\$
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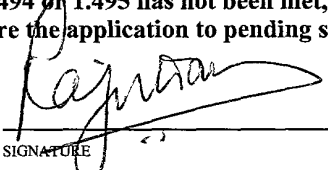
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NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive
 (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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JCO2 Rec'd PCT/PTO 14 MAR 2001

PATENT
Docket No. 360842007400
Client Ref. 99065US1

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Nancy DeRiggi

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Kenji HATADA

Serial No.: Not Assigned

Filing Date: March 14, 2001

For: MULTILAYER FILM AND PROCESS
FOR PRODUCING THE SAME

Examiner: Not Assigned

Group Art Unit: Not Assigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend this application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A multilayer film comprising a base material, a polymer resin layer and a metal deposited layer and/or a metal oxide deposited layer provided on the base material, wherein said polymer resin layer comprises a polymer produced by polymerization of an unsaturated compound having two or more ethylenic bonds and/or acetylenic bonds in one

molecule and having neither an acrylic group nor a methacrylic group, said polymer being present in said polymer resin layer in an amount of 80 % by weight or more based on said polymer resin layer.

2. (Amended) A multilayer film according to claim 1, wherein the polymer resin layer, the metal deposited layer and/or the metal oxide deposited layer are provided on the base material in this order.

3. (Amended) A multilayer film according to claim 1, wherein the metal deposited layer and/or the metal oxide deposited layer and the polymer resin layer are provided on the base material in this order.

4. (Amended) A multilayer film according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of the polymer resin layer is not less than 0.02 μm and not more than 1 μm .

5. (Amended) A multilayer film according to claim 4, wherein the thickness of the polymer resin layer is not less than 0.05 μm and not more than 0.5 μm .

6. (Amended) A multilayer film according to claim 1, wherein the unsaturated compound is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of an unsaturated fatty acid, an unsaturated fatty ester, and a terpene having an unsaturated bond.

7. (Amended) A multilayer film according to claim 6, wherein the unsaturated fatty acid, unsaturated fatty ester, and terpene having an unsaturated bond are compounds isolated from natural substances.

8. (Amended) A multilayer film according to claim 7, wherein the unsaturated fatty acid, unsaturated fatty ester, and terpene having an unsaturated bond are compounds selected from the group consisting of a drying oil, a semi-drying oil, or a hydrolysate thereof, or a part of the component thereof, or a combination thereof.

9. (Amended) A multilayer film according to claim 8, wherein the drying oil or the semi-drying oil is a compound having an iodine value of not less than 100.

10. (Amended) A multilayer film according to claim 6, wherein the unsaturated fatty acid, unsaturated fatty ester, and terpene having an unsaturated bond are one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of castor oil, coconut oil, soybean oil, linseed oil, palm kernel oil, safflower oil, china wood oil, tall oil, oleic acid, linolic acid, linolenic acid, ricinoleic acid, eleostearic acid, triglyceride linoleate, triglyceride linolenate, citral, citronellal, citronellol, nerolidol, geraniol, miltien, linalool, and limonene.

11. (Amended) A multilayer film according to claim 1, said multilayer film having a property of a metallized packaging film or a metallized film for a capacitor.

12. (Amended) A process for producing a multilayer film, comprising forming a polymer resin layer on a base material and depositing a metal layer and/or a metal oxide layer on the base material, wherein said forming a polymer resin layer comprises depositing an

unsaturated compound having two or more ethylenic bonds and/or acetylenic bonds in one molecule and having neither acrylic group nor methacrylic group on the base material, and then irradiating the unsaturated compound with energy rays.

13. (Amended) A process for producing a multilayer film according to claim 12, wherein the metal and/or the metal oxide is deposited on the base material and then said unsaturated compound is deposited on said metal layer and/or metal oxide layer.

14. (Amended) A process for producing a multilayer film according to claim 12, wherein said unsaturated compound is deposited on the base material and irradiated with energy rays to form the polymer resin layer, and then the metal and/or metal oxide is deposited on said polymer resin layer.

15. (Amended) A process for producing a multilayer film according to claim 12, wherein a surface of the base material is subjected to a plasma treatment prior to said forming a polymer resin layer and depositing a metal layer and/or a metal oxide layer.

16. (Amended) A process for producing a multilayer film according to claim 12, wherein the energy rays are selected from the group consisting of ultraviolet rays, ions, excited atoms, and excited molecules.

17. (Amended) A process for producing a multilayer film according to claim 12, wherein the energy rays are a plasma of a gas containing oxygen atoms.

18. (Amended) A process for producing a multilayer film according to claim 12, wherein the depositing the unsaturated compound on the base material comprises atomizing the unsaturated compound to form atomized particles and impinging said atomized particles on a wall of a heated apparatus.

19. (Amended) A process for producing a multilayer film according to claim 18, wherein the unsaturated compound is atomized by applying an electric voltage to the unsaturated compound.

20. (Amended) A process for producing a multilayer film according to claim 18, wherein a wall of said heated apparatus comprises an aperture, wherein the unsaturated compound is deposited while an electric voltage is applied between the aperture and the metal layer and/or metal oxide layer.

Please add the following new claims 21 and 22:

21. A process for producing a multilayer film according to claim 12, wherein said forming a polymer resin layer and depositing a metal layer and/or a metal oxide layer on a base material is in vacuum.

22. A multilayer film comprising a base material, a polymer resin layer and a metal layer and/or a metal oxide layer provided on the base material, wherein said polymer resin layer comprises a polymer produced by polymerization of an unsaturated compound having two or more ethylenic bonds and/or acetylenic bonds in one molecule and having neither an acrylic

group nor a methacrylic group, said polymer being present in said polymer resin layer in an amount of 80% by weight or more based on said polymer resin layer.

REMARKS

The claims of this application have been amended to put them in a format generally adopted in the United States. This amendment does not introduce any new limitation and, therefore, does *not* narrow the claims.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made**"

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952**, reference No. 360842007400. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: March 13, 2001

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claims 1-20 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A multilayer film comprising a base material, a polymer resin layer and a metal deposited layer and/or a metal oxide deposited layer provided on the base material, wherein said polymer resin layer [contains] comprises a polymer produced by polymerization of an unsaturated compound having two or more ethylenic bonds and/or acetylenic bonds in one molecule and having neither an acrylic group nor a methacrylic group, said polymer being present in said polymer resin layer in an amount of 80 % by weight or more based on said polymer resin layer.

2. (Amended) A multilayer film according to claim 1, [in which] wherein the polymer resin layer, the metal deposited layer and/or the metal oxide deposited layer are provided on the base material in this order.

3. (Amended) A multilayer film according to claim 1, [in which] wherein the metal deposited layer and/or the metal oxide deposited layer and the polymer resin layer are provided on the base material in this order.

4. (Amended) A multilayer film according to claim 1, [in which] wherein the thickness of the polymer resin layer is not less than 0.02 μm and not more than 1 μm .

5. (Amended) A multilayer film according to claim 4, [in which] wherein the thickness of the polymer resin layer is not less than 0.05 μm and not more than 0.5 μm .

6. (Amended) A multilayer film according to claim 1, [in which] wherein the unsaturated compound is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of an unsaturated fatty acid, an unsaturated fatty ester, and a terpene having an unsaturated bond.

7. (Amended) A multilayer film according to claim 6, [in which] wherein the unsaturated fatty acid, unsaturated fatty ester, and terpene having an unsaturated bond are compounds isolated from natural substances.

8. (Amended) A multilayer film according to claim 7, [in which] wherein the unsaturated fatty acid, unsaturated fatty ester, and terpene having an unsaturated bond are compounds selected from the group consisting of a drying oil, a semi-drying oil, or a hydrolysate thereof, or a part of the component thereof, or a combination thereof.

9. (Amended) A multilayer film according to claim 8, [in which] wherein the drying oil or the semi-drying oil is a compound having an iodine value of not less than 100.

10. (Amended) A multilayer film according to claim 6, [in which] wherein the unsaturated fatty acid, unsaturated fatty ester, and terpene having an unsaturated bond are one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of castor oil, coconut oil, soybean oil, linseed oil, palm kernel oil, safflower oil, china wood oil, tall oil, oleic acid, linolic acid, linolenic acid, ricinoleic acid, eleostearic acid, triglyceride linoleate, triglyceride linolenate, citral, citronellal, citronellol, nerolidol, geraniol, miltens, linalool, and limonene.

11. (Amended) A multilayer film according to claim 1, [which is used for] said multilayer film having a property of a metallized packaging film or a metallized film for a capacitor.

12. (Amended) A process for producing a multilayer film, comprising [in which] forming a polymer resin layer on a base material and depositing a metal [deposited] layer and/or a metal oxide [deposited] layer [are deposited] on [a] the base material [in a vacuum deposition apparatus], wherein said forming a polymer resin layer comprises depositing an unsaturated compound having two or more ethylenic bonds and/or acetylenic bonds in one molecule and having neither acrylic group nor methacrylic group on the base material, [is deposited,] and then irradiating the unsaturated compound [is irradiated] with energy rays [to form said polymer resin layer].

13. (Amended) A process for producing a multilayer film according to claim 12, [in which] wherein the metal and/or the metal oxide is deposited on the base material[,] and then said unsaturated compound is deposited on said metal [deposited] layer and/or metal oxide [deposited] layer [and said unsaturated compound is irradiated with energy rays to form the polymer resin layer].

14. (Amended) A process for producing a multilayer film according to claim 12, [in which] wherein said unsaturated compound is deposited on the base material[,] and [said unsaturated compound is] irradiated with energy rays to form the polymer resin layer, and then the metal and/or metal oxide is deposited on said polymer resin layer.

15. (Amended) A process for producing a multilayer film according to claim 12, [in which the] wherein a surface of the base material is [previously] subjected to a plasma treatment prior to said forming a polymer resin layer and depositing a metal layer and/or a metal oxide layer.

16. (Amended) A process for producing a multilayer film according to claim 12, [in which] wherein the energy rays are [one or more kinds of energy rays] selected from [a] the group consisting of ultraviolet rays, ions, excited atoms, and excited molecules.

17. (Amended) A process for producing a multilayer film according to claim 12, [in which] wherein the energy rays are a plasma of a gas containing oxygen atoms.

18. (Amended) A process for producing a multilayer film according to claim 12, [in which] wherein the [deposition of] depositing the unsaturated compound on the base material [is such that] comprises atomizing the unsaturated compound [is] to form atomized particles and [allowed] impinging said atomized particles [to impinge upon] on a [heated] wall of [an] a heated apparatus [thereby evaporated and deposited on the base material or the metal and/or metal oxide deposited layer].

19. (Amended) A process for producing a multilayer film according to claim 18, [in which] wherein the unsaturated compound is atomized by applying an electric voltage to the unsaturated compound.

20. (Amended) A process for producing a multilayer film according to claim 18, [in which] wherein [the unsaturated compound is atomized and allowed to impinge upon a wall of a heated apparatus thereby evaporated and deposited on the base material or the metal and/or metal oxide deposited layer through an aperture of] a wall of said heated apparatus comprises an aperture, wherein the unsaturated compound is deposited while an electric voltage is applied between the aperture [of said heated apparatus] and the metal [deposited] layer and/or metal oxide [deposited] layer.

Claims 21 and 22 have been added:

21. A process for producing a multilayer film according to claim 12, wherein said forming a polymer resin layer and depositing a metal layer and/or a metal oxide layer on a base material is in vacuum.

22. A multilayer film comprising a base material, a polymer resin layer and a metal layer and/or a metal oxide layer provided on the base material, wherein said polymer resin layer comprises a polymer produced by polymerization of an unsaturated compound having two or more ethylenic bonds and/or acetylenic bonds in one molecule and having neither an acrylic group nor a methacrylic group, said polymer being present in said polymer resin layer in an amount of 80% by weight or more based on said polymer resin layer.

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- 1 -

DESCRIPTION

MULTILAYER FILM AND PROCESS FOR PRODUCING THE SAME

Technical Field

The present invention relates to a multilayer film having gas barrier properties which is used for a metallized packaging film or a metallized film used for a capacitor and the like.

Background Art

A metallized film in which a metal such as aluminum or a metal oxide such as SiO_x and Al_2O_x are deposited on a film such as a polyethylene terephthalate film or a polypropylene film has excellent oxygen barrier properties or water vapor barrier properties, and has been widely employed as a food packaging film. A drawback of such metallized film is that when the film is stretched, the metal deposited layer or the metal oxide deposited layer cracks thereby the barrier properties are impaired. A current problem is that when the film is made into a bag, the film is folded and drawn by the sailor of a bag-making machine, cracks occur in the deposited layer to impair the gas barrier properties. In the case of a metal oxide deposited layer, a serious problem is that when the metal oxide deposited layer is subjected to printing, the printing ink causes chemical changes of the

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metal oxide thereby the barrier performance is lowered.

As a means to cope with such problems, a process of coating a resin on the metal or metal oxide deposited film has been developed for commercial use, however, a problem of such a film is that the production cost is increased as two processes i.e., the deposition process and the coating process, are required and the high price restricts the uses of the film.

U.S. Patent No. 5,440,446 suggests a metallized film for a capacitor, which comprises a sheet material, a metal deposited layer provided thereon, and an acrylic monomer deposited on the metal deposited layer, which is then crosslinked with an electron beam to form an acrylic polymer resin layer, as well as a metallized packaging film comprising a sheet material, an acrylic polymer resin layer provided thereon in the similar manner, a metal deposited layer formed thereon and an acrylic polymer resin layer provided in the similar manner on the metal deposited layer.

On the other hand, U.S. Patent Nos. 4,842,893 and 5,032,461 suggest a process for forming a polymer resin layer in which an acrylic (methacrylic) ester is evaporated by an evaporator in a deposition apparatus for depositing a metal, and deposited on the metal deposited layer, then the acrylic (methacrylic) ester is polymerized by an electron beam to form a polymer resin layer.

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The method suggested in the U.S. Patent No. 5,440,446, however, has the following problems.

1. The polymer resin layer formed from the acrylic (methacrylic) ester has weak adhesion with the underlying metal deposited layer. It has a weak adhesion with an adhesive or a molten and extruded olefinic resin (such as LLDPE), which is applied on said polymer resin layer as an adhesive during laminating process with other film which is carried out for making a bag, and easily peeled off therefrom.
2. The film to which a polymer resin layer formed from the acrylic (methacrylic) ester is laminated, has a high friction coefficient, and cannot be laminated as the film is wrinkled during lamination process.

The method suggested in the U.S. Patent Nos. 4,842,893 and 5,032,461 has the following problems.

3. The acrylic (methacrylic) ester is thermally polymerized and adhered onto an apparatus in the evaporator for atomizing said monomer, and the apparatus becomes inoperable in the long run. In such a case, the acrylic (methacrylic) ester cannot be atomized, and sent in the form of a liquid droplet to the heated evaporator, and thermally polymerized therein thereby the evaporator is plugged with the polymerized material.
4. The acrylic acid, acrylic ester, methacrylic acid, and

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methacrylic ester type monomers cause irritation to skin, have a strong odor, and are not easily handled.

Disclosure of Invention

An object of the present invention is to solve the above-mentioned problems and to provide a multilayer film having high quality and high processability which can be stably produced.

Such object of the present invention can be achieved by a multilayer film comprising a base material, a polymer resin layer and a metal deposited layer and/or a metal oxide deposited layer provided thereon, wherein the polymer resin layer contains a polymer produced by polymerization of an unsaturated compound having two or more ethylenic bonds and/or acetylenic bonds in one molecule and having neither acrylic group nor methacrylic group, in an amount of 80 % by weight or more based on the polymer resin layer.

The object of the present invention can be also achieved by a method of producing a multilayer film in which a polymer resin layer and a metal deposited layer and/or a metal oxide deposited layer are deposited on a base material in a vacuum deposition apparatus, wherein an unsaturated compound having two or more ethylenic bonds and/or acetylenic bonds in one molecule and having neither acrylic group nor methacrylic group, is deposited, then the

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unsaturated compound is irradiated with energy rays to form said polymer resin layer.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1, Fig. 2 and Fig. 3 are views to illustrate different constructions of multilayer films according to the present invention; Fig. 4 is a schematic illustration of one example of an apparatus for producing a multilayer film according to the present invention; Fig. 5 is a schematic illustration of an apparatus to atomize an unsaturated compound by applying an electric voltage to the unsaturated compound in a process for depositing the unsaturated compound; and Fig. 6 is a schematic illustration of one example of an apparatus for applying an electric voltage between a monomer evaporator and a base material in a process wherein an unsaturated compound is atomized and deposited.

Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention

Base materials according to the present invention are not particularly limited as far as they allow deposition of a metal or a metal oxide, but preferable examples thereof include unoriented or oriented films comprising an organic polymer resin including polyethylene, polypropylene, and polyester such as polyethylene terephthalate, and

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polyethylene naphthalate, polyamide, polystyrene and polycarbonate or foils comprising a metal such as aluminum and copper. Among these, a film comprising polypropylene or a polyester is preferably employed. The surface of the base material can be subjected to surface treatment such as corona discharge treatment, flame treatment, and plasma treatment or lamination of a resin layer by melt extrusion or coating a resin layer can be carried out for improving the adhesive properties. Among these, the most preferred is plasma treatment.

Materials for the metal deposited layer according to the present invention are not particularly limited, and a metal such as Al, Cu, Sn, In, and Zn or a mixture of two or more kinds of metals, or alloys can be used. Materials for the metal oxide deposited layer are not particularly limited, and a metal oxide such as SiO_x , Al_2O_x , InO_x , and SnO_x or a compound or a mixture of two or more kinds of the metal oxides can be employed. The oxide deposited layer according to the present invention includes an incomplete oxide deposited layer.

The thickness of a deposited layer can be appropriately selected according to the required characteristics of the film. The thickness of a metal deposited layer is preferably of from 0.01 μm to 1 μm from the view points of barrier characteristics, conductivity and the flexibility of

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the deposited film. The thickness of a metal oxide layer deposited layer is preferably of from 0.006 μm to 0.5 μm from the view points of barrier properties, dielectric strength and flexibility.

The construction of the multilayer film according to the present invention can be, depending on its use, one illustrated in Fig. 1 comprising a base material 1/a polymer resin layer 2/a metal deposited layer and/or metal oxide deposited layer 3, one illustrated in Fig. 2 comprising a base material 1/a metal deposited layer and/or metal oxide deposited layer 3/a polymer resin layer 2, or one illustrated in Fig. 3 wherein these structures are laminated each other.

For example, for improving the barrier performance of a deposited packaging film, or for controlling the degradation of the barrier performance of a deposited packaging film during bag making process, a structure in which a base material/a metal deposited layer and/or a metal oxide deposited layer/a polymer resin layer laminated in this order is preferred; for improving barrier performance, a structure in which a base material/a polymer resin layer/a metal deposited layer or/and a metal oxide deposited layer, laminated in this order is preferred. With respect to a deposited film for a capacitor, for preventing the metal deposited layer from corrosion by water penetrating the base

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material, or for improving the self-healing properties, a structure in which a base material/a polymer resin layer/a metal deposited layer and/or a metal oxide deposited layer, laminated in this order is preferred. In order to improve the moisture resistance, a structure in which a base material/a metallized film and/or a metal oxide deposited film/a polymer resin layer, laminated in this order is preferred. Some 10 or some 1000 layers comprising a metal deposited layer and/or a metal oxide deposited layer/a polymer resin layer can provide a small-sized laminate capacitor.

When a metal deposited layer or a metal oxide deposited layer is provided on a polymer resin layer, the surface of the polymer resin layer can be subjected to plasma treatment to improve the adherence.

Of course, the construction of the present invention is not limited to these and any number of metal deposited layers, metal oxide deposited layers, and polymer resin layers can be laminated in any order on a base material.

The thickness of the polymer resin layer according to the present invention is preferably not less than 0.02 μm and not more than 1 μm . A thickness of less than 0.02 μm will have a little effect on improving the quality, and a thickness of more than 1 μm will provide such problems that the resulting metallized film becomes sticky or in a case of

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a deposited film for a capacitor, a higher electrical loss tangent is generated due to interfacial polarization. The more preferred thickness is not less than 0.05 μm and not more than 0.5 μm .

The polymer resin layer according to the present invention is required to include a polymer obtained by polymerization of an unsaturated compound having at least two ethylenic bonds and/or acetylenic bonds and neither acrylic group nor methacrylic group in its molecule, in an amount of 80 % by weight or more based on the polymer resin layer. Since such unsaturated compound is not susceptible to thermal polymerization or curing in vacuum, in comparison with the acrylic type compound or methacrylic type compound, it is less likely that this material plugs the evaporator. Further, since such unsaturated compound is easily polymerized and/or cured by energy rays, it allows steady production of a multilayer film.

As such an unsaturated compound, one or more compounds selected from an unsaturated fatty acid, an unsaturated fatty ester, and a terpene having an unsaturated bond are preferable due to their high heat stability and good polymerizable and/or crosslinkable properties by the energy rays. Among them, an unsaturated fatty acid, an unsaturated fatty ester and a terpene having an unsaturated bond which are isolated from natural substances are more preferred as

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they cause less skin irritation and have weaker undesirable odors. Among them, a drying oil and a semi-drying oil are preferred since they are polymerized and/or crosslinked by an energy beam to provide a polymer. In particular, an unsaturated compound having an iodine value of 100 or more is preferred due to its quality, processability and productivity.

"Isolated from natural substances" means not only pressing or extracting a substance from natural substances, but also further reaction such as hydrolysis of a pressed or extracted material, or isolation of a part of the component of the pressed or extracted material, or a combination of two or more kinds of such processes.

Examples of an unsaturated fatty acid, unsaturated fatty ester and terpene having an unsaturated bond according to the present invention include natural oils and fats containing the same or a hydrolysate of a material extracted from such natural oils and fats. Among these, one or more compounds selected from castor oil, coconut oil, soybean oil, linseed oil, palm kernel oil, safflower oil, china wood oil, tall oil, oleic acid, linolic acid, linolenic acid, ricinoleic acid, eleostearic acid, triglyceride linoleate, triglyceride linolenate, citral, citronellal, citronellol, nerolidol, geraniol, miltan, linalool, and limonene are particularly preferred.

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In addition to these unsaturated compounds, other radically polymerizable organic monomer can be added in an amount of up to 20 % by weight. When the amount is up to 20 % by weight, an organic monomer having acryloyl group such as pentaerythritol triacrylate can be added without increasing the possibility of thermal polymerization, thereby causes little problem in the production.

The multilayer film according to the present invention has good adhesion between the polymer resin layer and the metal deposited layer or a metal oxide deposited layer, and when it is laminated with other resin, the adhesion with the laminated resin or with the adhesive agent used for lamination is good as well, and has a low friction coefficient, thereby allows the lamination process without generating wrinkles in the metallized film. Although a polymer resin layer having a much smaller thickness, i.e. a thickness of not more than 1 μm , is laminated than that used in the conventional laminated film, as the polymer resin layer has high crosslinking degree, the metal deposited layer or the metal oxide deposited layer does not crack when the film is drawn, thereby prevents the degradation of the barrier properties of the metallized film. As the film has a low water permeation, there are other features including that the deposited layer of the metallized film has a slow corrosion rate under high humidity conditions. Due to these

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superior characteristics, the multilayer film according to the present invention is suited for a packaging film or a film for a capacitor.

The multilayer film according to the present invention can be produced in a vacuum deposition apparatus by deposition of a polymer resin layer and a metal deposited layer and/or a metal oxide deposited layer on a base material, wherein an unsaturated compound having at least two or more ethylenic bonds and/or acetylenic bonds and neither acrylic group nor methacrylic group in one molecule is deposited then irradiated with an energy beam to form said polymer resin layer.

Now referring to Fig. 4, which is a schematic illustration of one example of an apparatus for producing a multilayer film according to the present invention, one example of a process for producing a multilayer film according to the present invention will be explained. In a vacuum deposition apparatus 4, a base material 1 is unwinded from an unwinding roll 5 then the surface of the base material is subjected to plasma surface treatment by a plasma treatment apparatus 6. Then a metal and/or a metal oxide evaporated from a metal evaporation source 8 is deposited on the surface treated base material on a cooling drum 7. Then an unsaturated compound evaporated from a monomer evaporator 9 is deposited on the deposited layer,

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and it is irradiated with an energy beam by employing an energy beam irradiation apparatus 10 to polymerize and/or crosslink said unsaturated compound to form a polymer resin layer comprising the polymerized and/or crosslinked product of said unsaturated compound, and the film is rolled on a winding roll 11. In the Fig. 4, a numeral 12 denotes a vacuum partition plate for providing the difference in the degree of vacuum between a base material unwinding and winding chamber and an evaporation source chamber, and a numeral 13 denotes a masking plate to prevent the evaporating metal particles from depositing onto the whole area inside the vacuum chamber. In this schematic illustration, a vacuum evacuation system, an evacuation line, and power lines for a plasma treatment apparatus 6, a monomer evaporator 9, an energy beam irradiation apparatus 10 and the like, a monomer pipe line for a monomer evaporator 9, or rolls for travelling the base material and the like are omitted.

A method for depositing an unsaturated compound is not particularly limited, but in a preferred process the unsaturated compound is atomized and allowed to impinge upon a heated wall of the vessel and evaporated and deposited on the base material or the metal and/or metal oxide deposited layer. As the unsaturated compound employed according to the present invention is resistant to thermal polymerization

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even in vacuum, such an atomization apparatus employing an ultrasonic vibrator as disclosed in U.S. Patent No.

4,696,719 can be employed as well.

In a more preferable method, an unsaturated compound is atomized by applying electricity, then introduced into the evaporator and allowed to impinge with the heated inner wall of the evaporator and the unsaturated compound mist is evaporated and deposited on the base material. In a preferred process for applying electricity, an unsaturated compound is allowed to contact with an electricity applying electrode to which an electric voltage is applied.

A schematic illustration of one example of an apparatus for carrying out the present process (Fig. 5) will be employed for detailed explanation. The apparatus is constructed of a vacuum wall 14, an evaporator 15 having an aperture 16, an unsaturated compound transporting pipe 17, a proportioning pump 18, an on-off valve 19, an atomizing pipe 20, an electrode 21, and a power source 22.

The side A of the vacuum wall 14 is kept under vacuum condition, and the base material 1 travels on a cooling drum 7. The side B is exposed to the atmosphere.

The unsaturated compound is degassed and sent from an organic compound supplying tank where it is stored (not shown in the Figure) through the unsaturated compound transporting pipe 17, and a specified amount thereof is sent

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to the atomizing pipe 20 by the metering pump 18 which can maintain vacuum, through the on-off valve 19. The electrode 21 is inserted into the atomizing pipe 20. Electricity is applied to the unsaturated compound by said electrode 21 and the compound is charged with static electricity and made into the form of a mist, then sprayed onto the inner wall of the evaporator 15 kept at an elevated temperature. The sprayed unsaturated compound is evaporated on impinging upon the heated inner wall of the evaporator 15 and adhered on the surface of the base material 1 through the narrow aperture 16 at an end of the evaporator. As said base material 1 is cooled by the cooling drum 7, the unsaturated compound adhered on the base material 1 coheres and is deposited on the surface of said base material 1 to form a thin film.

The spraying pipe 20 is electrically and thermally insulated from the organic compound transporting pipe 17 and the evaporator 15, and the electrode 21 to apply an electric voltage to the unsaturated compound is installed therein. The electrode 21 is electrically insulated from the spraying pipe 20. The electrode 21 is a bare metal inside the spraying pipe 20 but it is coated with an insulating material outside the pipe and connected to the power source 22 so that the electric voltage and the electric current are supplied therefrom.

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The electric voltage and the electric current supplied from the power source 22 can be either DC, AC or DC superposed AC, however, since an unsaturated compound is generally dielectric, DC superposed AC is preferred. The polarity of the electric voltage applied to the electrode 21 can be either positive or negative against the evaporator 15, and the electric voltage depends on the degree of vacuum and the distance between the electrode 21 and the evaporator 15, and a preferable peak voltage is around 100 V - 10 KV. If it is less than 100 V, the amount of the static electricity charged by the unsaturated compound is too small to make the unsaturated compound into a fine mist, and a voltage of more than 10 KV tends to provide an arc discharge between the electrode 21 and the evaporator 15 and the mist of the unsaturated compound becomes unstable. More preferred voltage is between 300 V and 6 KV.

As mentioned above, electricity is preferably applied by an electrode, however it is possible to apply electricity to the unsaturated compound without employing an electrode, but by supplying an electric voltage directly from the power source to the spraying pipe which is electrically insulated from other elements such as the unsaturated compound transporting pipe, the evaporator and the vacuum wall. In this case, the electric voltage applied to the spraying pipe is preferably of from 100 V to 1 KV. A voltage of less than

100 V cannot sufficiently atomize the organic compound and a voltage of more than 1 KV tends to provide an arc discharge between the tip portion of the spraying pipe and the evaporator. The more preferable electric voltage is of from 300 V to 600 V.

The atmosphere used for carrying out the present invention is not necessarily limited to vacuum, and the present invention can be carried out in an air, however vacuum is preferred in that the evaporated unsaturated compound has a longer mean free path and a homogeneous and thin deposited coat layer can be formed on the surface of the base material.

The temperature of the evaporator can be such that the entire inner wall thereof is heated to at least a temperature at which the vapor pressure of the unsaturated compound becomes not less than the pressure in the evaporator.

There is a possibility that inside the apparatus becomes contaminated with said unsaturated compound as the evaporated unsaturated compound diffuses inside the apparatus, or the unsaturated compound once deposited on the base material is re-evaporated and deposited on the inner wall or other elements of the apparatus apart from the base material to form a coat. The unsaturated compound adhered inside the apparatus interferes with the stable motion of

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the driving system in the apparatus and it may stop the movement thereof in an extreme case. In addition to that, a long time is required for cleaning and there is a possibility of causing such a problem as reduction of productivity.

In a preferable process for solving this problem, an unsaturated compound is atomized and allowed to impinge upon a heated wall of the apparatus, thereby evaporated and deposited upon the metal deposited layer and/or metal oxide deposited layer through an aperture of said heated apparatus, wherein the unsaturated compound is deposited while an electric voltage is applied between the aperture of said heated apparatus and the metal deposited layer and/or metal oxide deposited layer.

The present process is illustratively explained employing the schematic illustration (Fig. 6) of an example of a preferable apparatus for carrying out the present process. However, the present invention is not limited to this apparatus. The apparatus comprises a vacuum wall 14, an evaporator 15 having an aperture 16, an unsaturated compound transporting pipe 17, a proportioning pump 18, an on-off valve 19, an atomizing pipe 20 having a built-in ultrasonic vibrator, lead wires 23 and 28 for applying an electric voltage, a power source 24, and a metal roll 27 for applying an electric voltage to a base material 1. The

09787105-011702

aperture comprises a metallic electrode plate 26 having a plurality of fine holes, or a mesh structure, an insulation plate 25 which electrically insulates said electrode plate from the evaporator 15, and a narrow aperture provided in the evaporator 15. The electrode plate 26 and the metal roll 27 are attached to the power source 24 by lead wires 23 and 24 respectively and a voltage is placed between the electrode plate 26 and the metal roll 27.

Side A of the vacuum wall 14 is kept under vacuum and the base material 1 travels on a cooling drum 7. The metal deposited layer on the base material 1 is contacted with the metal roll 14, thereby a voltage is applied thereto from the power source 11. Side B is exposed to the atmosphere.

The unsaturated compound is degassed and sent from an unsaturated compound supplying tank (not shown in the Figure) in which it is stored through the unsaturated compound transporting pipe 17, and a specified amount thereof is sent to the atomizing pipe 20 through the on-off valve 19 by the proportioning pump 18 which can maintain vacuum. The atomizing pipe 20 has a built-in ultrasonic vibrator and the unsaturated compound brought into contact with the vibrator (horn) in the atomizing pipe is made into a mist by the ultrasonic vibration of the horn and sprayed onto the inner wall of the evaporator 15 which is kept at an elevated temperature (in Fig. 6, an ultrasonic wave power

09787405-011702

source and an ultrasonic wave vibration generating apparatus are not shown. The details of the ultrasonic vibrator are not shown in the Figure.) The sprayed unsaturated compound is evaporated on impinging upon the inner wall of said heated evaporator 15 and released into the inner space of the deposition apparatus through the aperture 16 at the tip of the evaporator. Since a voltage is applied between the electrode plate 26 at the aperture and the base material 1, the vapor is charged with electricity and guided by the electric field between the aperture 16 and the base material 1 and adheres on the surface of the base material 1 by electrostatic force. As said base material 1 is cooled by the cooling drum 7, the unsaturated compound adhered on said base material 1 easily coheres and a thin film of the unsaturated compound is formed on the surface of said base material 1. Since the unsaturated compound on the base material is adhered on said base material with the electrostatic force, it is less likely that the adhered organic compound is re-evaporated.

The electric voltage can be directly applied to the evaporator 15. In this case, it is preferable that a plurality of fine holes are provided at the aperture of the evaporator 15 or the aperture is made to have a mesh structure.

The electric voltage and the current supplied from the

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power source 24 can be either DC, AC or DC superposed AC, however, since an unsaturated compound is generally dielectric, DC superposed AC is preferred. The electric voltage depends on the degree of vacuum and the distance between the base material 1 and the evaporator 15, and a preferable peak voltage is around 50 V - 10 KV. If it is less than 50 V, the amount of the static electricity charged by the unsaturated compound is too small, and the vapor of the unsaturated compound tends to be diffused in the inner space of the deposition apparatus apart from the base material. A voltage of more than 10 KV tends to provide an arc discharge between the base material or a metal member in the deposition apparatus and the aperture 16 or the metal roll 27, and the unsaturated compound adhering condition becomes unstable. More preferred voltage is between 100 V and 3 KV.

The energy rays according to the present invention refer to ultraviolet rays, electron beam, ion particles, α -rays, β -rays, γ -rays, excited atoms, excited molecules, plasma and the like. In particular one or more energy rays selected from ultraviolet rays, ions such as ionized atoms and ionized molecules, excited atoms or excited molecules are preferred. As these energy rays exist in a plasma of a gas comprising a compound having an oxygen atom in the molecule, which is optionally mixed with other gas, a plasma

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of a gas containing oxygen atoms can also be preferably employed as energy rays. Though ions or excited gas particles in a plasma do not generally penetrate deep into the unsaturated compound layer, as the unsaturated compound layer according to the present invention is thin, the entire unsaturated compound layer can be polymerized and/or crosslinked.

In a case where an acrylic (methacrylic) monomer is employed, it is known that the oxygen works as a radical trapping agent to inhibit the polymerization, however, according to the present invention the unsaturated compound can be polymerized and/or crosslinked by oxygen, therefore the oxygen gas plasma can be more suitable energy rays.

Now the present invention will be described in details by the use of the following embodiments, which will not limit the present invention.

EXAMPLE 1

Aluminum was deposited on a biaxially oriented polypropylene film (manufactured by Toray Industries, Inc. under the trade name of "Torayfan") having a thickness of 18 μm , having been subjected to surface treatment in a vacuum deposition apparatus which was evacuated to 5×10^{-3} Pa such that the absorbance OD became 2.3. Then linolenic acid atomized by an ultrasonic vibrator was supplied into a monomer evaporator which was heated to 200°C and the

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evaporated linolenic acid was deposited on said aluminum deposited layer through a slit provided in the evaporator. The amount of the linolenic acid supplied to the ultrasonic vibrator was controlled such that the thickness of the deposited linolenic acid layer became 0.06 μm .

Then a mixed gas comprising Ar gas and oxygen (oxygen gas concentration of 30 mol%) was supplied to inside a box-shaped anode of an energy rays irradiation apparatus. Inside said anode, a cathode is installed being insulated from the anode. A high voltage of -10KV was applied to said cathode to cause a glow discharge inside the box-shaped anode and a plasma was formed. A part of the high energy electrons, Ar ions and oxygen gas were accelerated by electric field and the linolenic acid layer on said aluminum deposited film was irradiated with these coming through a slit provided in the anode, and the linolenic acid was polymerized to provide a polymer resin layer having a thickness of 0.06 μm . This process was continuously carried out by the use of a film roll having a length of 21000 m at the deposition rate of 500 m/min. Stable deposition was carried out for about 45 minutes and a multilayer film having nearly the same length as the original film roll was obtained.

LLDPE resin (linear low density polyethylene) was laminated on the produced multilayer film by melt extrusion,

09787105-011702

then laminated with a CPP film (unoriented polypropylene film). The lamination processability, the adherence of the laminated film, and oxygen barrier properties were examined before and after the film was stretched by 6% using a tensile tester.

All the producibility of the film, lamination processability and adherence were good, and the oxygen barrier properties (initial value) was high as it was 3.0 ml/m²day, and the durability was good as well, since the oxygen barrier properties was 3.0 ml/m²day after the film was stretched by 6 %.

The measurement and evaluation of lamination processability, adherence and oxygen barrier properties were carried out as follows.

(1) Lamination processability

Said multilayer film and the CPP film were laminated by melt extrusion of LLDPE at 290°C using a T-die. The construction was the base material film/the metal deposited layer/the polymer resin layer/the LLDPE resin/the CPP film.

(2) Adherence

Above-mentioned laminated film was cut to a width of 15 mm and the adhesion between the base material film and the CPP film was measured by T-peel method. Adhesive strength of 1.18 N (120 gf) or more was judged as good adherence.

(3) Oxygen barrier properties

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OX-TRAN 2/20 manufactured by MOCON-Oxygen Transmission Analysis System was employed as a measuring apparatus and the oxygen permeability of the multilayer film was measured under the conditions of 22.8°C and 0%RH. The multilayer film was stretched by 6% or 10% by a tensile tester and subjected to the measurement for the oxygen permeability and the change in the oxygen barrier properties before and after the stretching of the film were examined.

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE 1

A process analogous to that of Example 1 was carried out except that tetraethylene glycol diacrylate was employed as the unsaturated compound instead of linolenic acid and the obtained multilayer film was evaluated.

10 minutes after the start of the deposition, the motion of the ultrasonic vibrator stopped, and the deposition was ceased. The vacuum deposition apparatus was opened and the monomer evaporator was examined; there was a polymer deposited inside the monomer evaporator.

During the lamination process, the film was creased and showed poor lamination processability as well as poor adherence. The oxygen barrier properties were good, with the initial value being 1.5 ml/m² day and that after the film was stretched by 6 % being 1.5 ml/m² day.

Though the film showed excellent oxygen barrier properties, the producibility and the lamination

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processability were poor, thereby this film is difficult to be in the actual use.

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE 2

A multilayer film was produced in the process analogous to that of Example 1 except that the deposition of the unsaturated compound was not carried out, and the obtained film was evaluated.

The producibility, lamination processability and adherence were good and the oxygen barrier properties were relatively good before stretching as the initial value was 7.5 ml/m² day, however, after it was stretched by 6 %, the oxygen barrier properties were very much deteriorated and showed 30 ml/m² day.

EXAMPLE 2

Aluminum was deposited on a biaxially oriented polypropylene film (manufactured by Toray Industries, Inc. available under the trade name of "Lumirror") having a thickness of 12 μ m, having been subjected to surface treatment in a vacuum deposition apparatus which was evacuated to 5×10^{-3} Pa such that the absorbance OD became 2.3. Then soybean oil (having iodine value of 134) atomized by an ultrasonic vibrator was supplied into a monomer evaporator which was heated to 300°C and the evaporated soybean oil was deposited on said aluminum deposited layer through a slit provided in the evaporator. The amount of

09787105-011702

the soybean oil supplied to the ultrasonic vibrator was controlled such that the thickness of the deposited soybean oil layer became 0.06 μm .

Then a mixed gas comprising Ar gas and oxygen (oxygen gas concentration of 30 mol%) was supplied to inside a box-shaped grounding electrode of an energy rays irradiation apparatus. Inside said grounding electrode, a high voltage applying electrode is installed being insulated from the grounding electrode. A high-frequency voltage having the peak voltage of 600 V was applied to said high voltage applying electrode to cause a glow discharge inside the box-shaped grounding electrode and a plasma was formed. A part of the plasma was let out through a slit provided in said grounding electrode and the soybean oil layer on said aluminum deposited film was irradiated therewith, and the soybean oil was polymerized to provide a polymer resin layer having a thickness of 0.06 μm . This process was continuously carried out by the use of a film roll having a length of 21000 m at the deposition rate of 500 m/min.

Both the producibility and the lamination processability of the multilayer film produced in such a process were good, and adherence and oxygen barrier properties (initial value was 0.2 ml/m² day, and that after being stretched by 6 % was 0.2 ml/m² day) were good as well.

EXAMPLE 3

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Same polypropylene film as that employed in Example 1 was used as the base material and the surface of said film was subjected to plasma treatment in a deposition apparatus by employing a mixed gas comprising CO₂ and Ar (CO₂ gas content of 60 mol%). Then aluminum was deposited (OD:2.4) on the surface of the plasma treated film in the same manner as that used in Example 1, then a polymer resin layer having a film thickness of 0.1 μm was provided thereon by employing linseed oil (iodine value of 182) as the unsaturated compound. The produced multilayer film was evaluated in the similar manner as that used in Example 1. Both the lamination processability and adherence were good and the oxygen barrier properties were high, as the initial value was 1.6 ml/m² day. The film showed good durability since the oxygen barrier properties after being stretched by 10 % was 5.0 ml/m²day.

EXAMPLE 4

A polymer resin layer having a thickness of 0.08 μm was provided on the polypropylene film which was subjected to plasma treatment in the similar manner as that used in Example 3 by employing a mixture of china wood oil (iodine value of 170) and linolic acid (the linolic acid content of 35 % by weight) as unsaturated compounds in the similar manner as that used in Example 1. Then aluminum oxide layer having a thickness of 0.01 μm was deposited on said polymer

resin layer. The produced multilayer film showed good lamination processability, good adherence, and good barrier properties as the oxygen barrier properties, both the initial value and the value after it was stretched by 6 % were 5.0 ml/m²day, besides it showed excellent transparency as well.

Industrial Applicability

According to the present invention, there is provided a multilayer film which can be stably produced, and which has excellent properties including lamination processability and gas barrier properties.

The multilayer film according to the present invention can be used for a metallized packaging film having gas barrier properties or a metallized film for a capacitor and the like.

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CLAIMS

1. A multilayer film comprising a base material, a polymer resin layer and a metal deposited layer and/or a metal oxide deposited layer provided on the base material, wherein said polymer resin layer contains a polymer produced by polymerization of an unsaturated compound having two or more ethylenic bonds and/or acetylenic bonds in one molecule and having neither acrylic group nor methacrylic group, in an amount of 80 % by weight or more based on said polymer resin layer.
2. A multilayer film according to claim 1, in which the polymer resin layer, the metal deposited layer and/or the metal oxide deposited layer are provided on the base material in this order.
3. A multilayer film according to claim 1, in which the metal deposited layer and/or the metal oxide deposited layer and the polymer resin layer are provided on the base material in this order.
4. A multilayer film according to claim 1, in which the thickness of the polymer resin layer is not less than 0.02 μm and not more than 1 μm .
5. A multilayer film according to claim 4, in which the thickness of the polymer resin layer is not less than 0.05 μm and not more than 0.5 μm .

09787105-011702

6. A multilayer film according to claim 1, in which the unsaturated compound is one or more compounds selected from an unsaturated fatty acid, an unsaturated fatty ester, and a terpene having an unsaturated bond.

7. A multilayer film according to claim 6, in which the unsaturated fatty acid, unsaturated fatty ester, and terpene having an unsaturated bond are compounds isolated from natural substances.

8. A multilayer film according to claim 7, in which the unsaturated fatty acid, unsaturated fatty ester, and terpene having an unsaturated bond are compounds selected from a drying oil, a semi-drying oil, or a hydrolysate thereof, or a part of the component thereof, or a combination thereof.

9. A multilayer film according to claim 8, in which the drying oil or the semi-drying oil is a compound having an iodine value of not less than 100.

10. A multilayer film according to claim 6, in which the unsaturated fatty acid, unsaturated fatty ester, and terpene having an unsaturated bond are one or more compounds selected from castor oil, coconut oil, soybean oil, linseed oil, palm kernel oil, safflower oil, china wood oil, tall oil, oleic acid, linolic acid, linolenic acid, ricinoleic acid, eleostearic acid, triglyceride linoleate, triglyceride linolenate, citral, citronellal, citronellol, nerolidol, geraniol, miltan, linalool, and limonene.

09787105-011702

11. A multilayer film according to claim 1, which is used for a metallized packaging film or a metallized film for a capacitor.

12. A process for producing a multilayer film in which a polymer resin layer and a metal deposited layer and/or a metal oxide deposited layer are deposited on a base material in a vacuum deposition apparatus, wherein an unsaturated compound having two or more ethylenic bonds and/or acetylenic bonds in one molecule and having neither acrylic group nor methacrylic group, is deposited, then the unsaturated compound is irradiated with energy rays to form said polymer resin layer.

13. A process for producing a multilayer film according to claim 12, in which the metal and/or the metal oxide is deposited on the base material then said unsaturated compound is deposited on said metal deposited layer and/or metal oxide deposited layer and said unsaturated compound is irradiated with energy rays to form the polymer resin layer.

14. A process for producing a multilayer film according to claim 12, in which said unsaturated compound is deposited on the base material, and said unsaturated compound is irradiated with energy rays to form the polymer resin layer, then the metal and/or metal oxide is deposited on said polymer resin layer.

15. A process for producing a multilayer film according to

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claim 12, in which the surface of the base material is previously subjected to plasma treatment.

16. A process for producing a multilayer film according to claim 12, in which the energy rays are one or more kinds of energy rays selected from a group consisting of ultraviolet rays, ions, excited atoms, and excited molecules.

17. A process for producing a multilayer film according to claim 12, in which the energy rays are a plasma of a gas containing oxygen atoms.

18. A process for producing a multilayer film according to claim 12, in which the deposition of the unsaturated compound is such that the unsaturated compound is atomized and allowed to impinge upon a heated wall of an apparatus thereby evaporated and deposited on the base material or the metal and/or metal oxide deposited layer.

19. A process for producing a multilayer film according to claim 18, in which the unsaturated compound is atomized by applying an electric voltage to the unsaturated compound.

20. A process for producing a multilayer film according to claim 18, in which the unsaturated compound is atomized and allowed to impinge upon a wall of a heated apparatus thereby evaporated and deposited on the base material or the metal and/or metal oxide deposited layer through an aperture of said heated apparatus, wherein the unsaturated compound is deposited while an electric voltage is applied between the

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aperture of said heated apparatus and the metal deposited layer and/or metal oxide deposited layer.

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FIG. 1

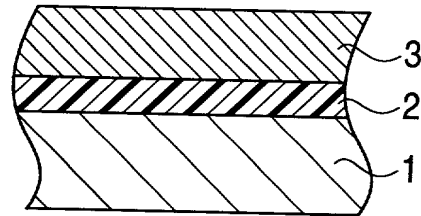


FIG. 2

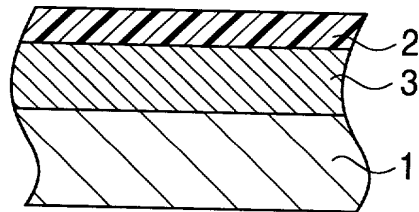


FIG. 3

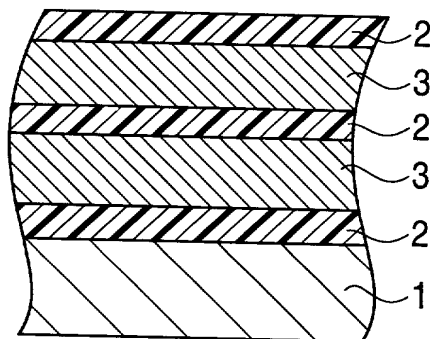
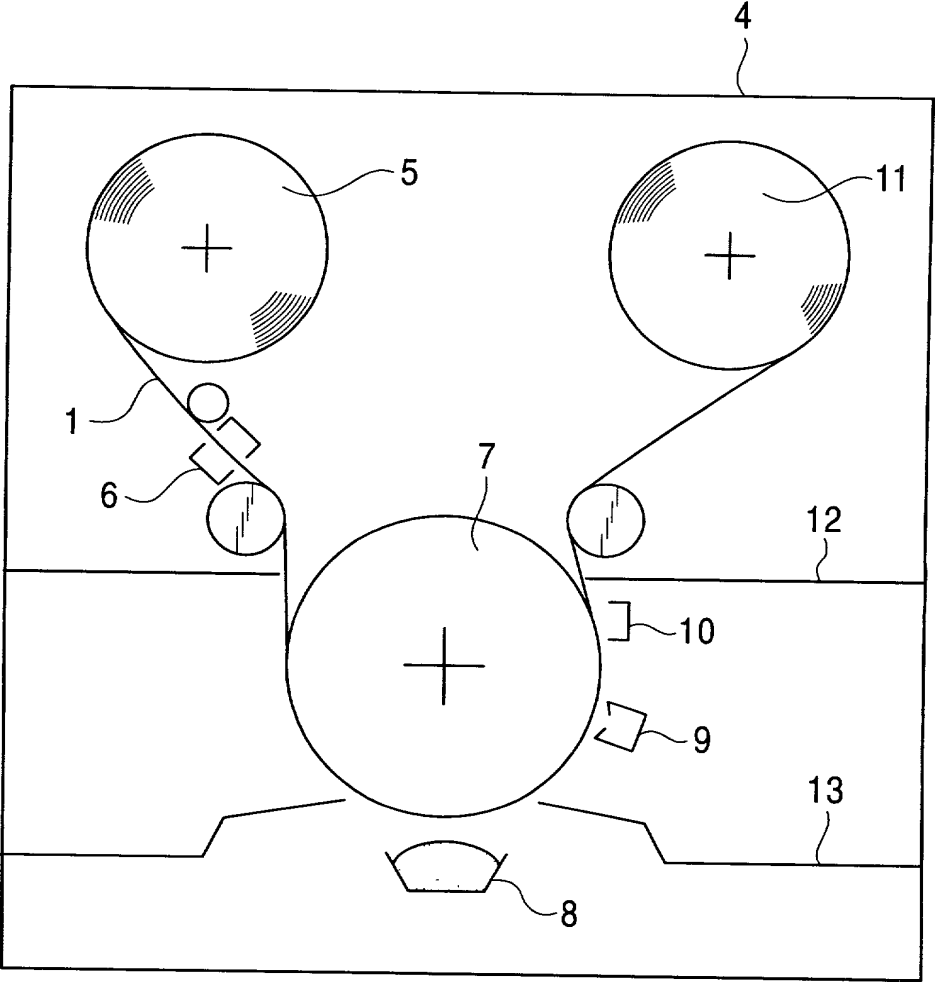


FIG. 4



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FIG. 5

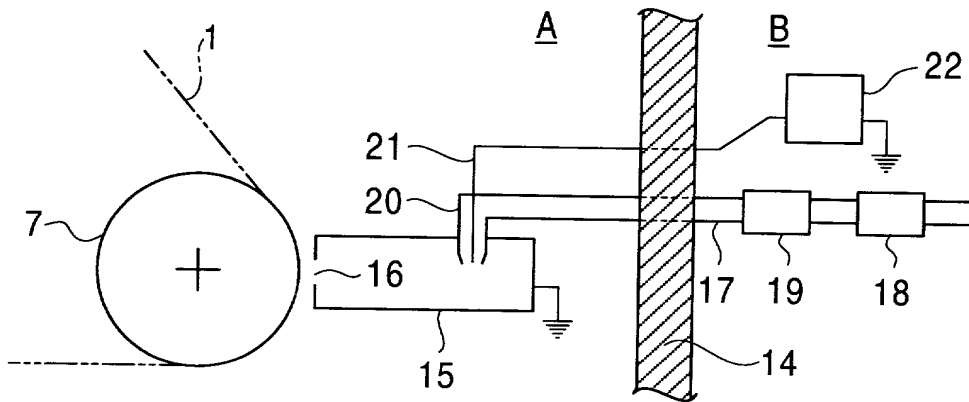
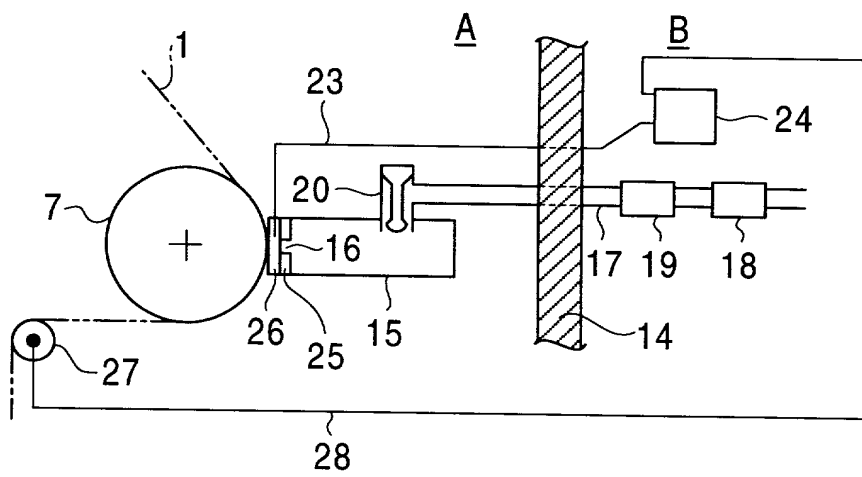


FIG. 6



COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on an invention entitled:

MULTILAYER FILM AND PROCESS FOR PRODUCING THE SAME

- ☐ the specification of which attached hereto
- ☒ which was described in International Application No. PCT/JP99/07237 filed on December 22, 1999 and as amended on (if any) which I have reviewed and for which I solicit a United States patent.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information I know to be material to patentability in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) and (b).

I hereby claim the benefit under the Paris Convention and 35 USC §119 the priority of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international applications(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed:

Country	Serial Number	Filing Date
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I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120 of any United States application(s), or §365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application.

Serial Number	Filing Date	Status
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